(c) Since the event will be held in 2008, necessary action will be initiated in the proper forum, in due course of time.

Culture of Tamil Nadu

1423. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any initiatives to safeguard and promote culture of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard including the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India are making efforts for the advancement
and propagation of Culture through various Schemes administered by the Ministry of Culture and institutions of the Ministry. The following are some of the activities that benefit Tamil Nadu:

Zonal Culture Centre, Thanjavur of Ministry of Culture have approved 23 programmes for the current financial year 2005-06.alloting an amount of Rs. 18.07 lakhs to safeguard and promote the art and culture of Tamilnadu. Apart from approved programmes, several programmes are being arranged and conducted through National Cultural Exchange Programme, Special Programmes and Collaborative Programmes, Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme etc. Apart from this, a mega festival "Salangainaatham" conducted every year at Thanjavur in which hundreds of Craft persons are participating and about 350 artists of various art forms from all over India participate. For all these programmes, an amount of not less than 50 lakhs is spent every year.

Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi is supporting the culture of Tamil Nadu through disbursement of grants to cultural institutions, by way of organizing programmes/festivals/events/Seminars/workshops/exhibitions of music, dance, drama and puppetry. Akademi is presenting the Young Dancers' Festival from 8-12 August, 2005 at Chennai.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi is giving due share in its various activities for Tamil Nadu. Sahitya Akademi has published 350 titles in Tamil including

translation and monographs on Tamil Writers. The Sahitya Akademi has its only sub-office in Chennai to look after the activities in Tamil.

Regional Centre of Lalit Kala Akademi at Chennai has been spending around Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs.20 lakhs per annum for organizing various programmes and maintenance of art gallery and Library of art books.

National School of Drama, New Delhi conducts workshops in various parts of the country under its Extension Programme activities in collaboration with local organizations, institutions and Departments. NSD has conducted such workshops in Tamil Nadu through their Regional Resource Centre at Bangalore.

Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai is an Institution of National Importance. It is organizing various activities for the preservation of traditional values in Indian Art, Classical Dance and Music. Cultural performance and lecture-demonstrations are conducted at Kalakshetra Foundation for the benefit of students. Allocation of Rs. 115 lakhs (Plan) and Rs.225 lakhs (Non-Plan) was made during 2004-05 to carry out its activities.

Apart from the above, Ministry of Culture has provided following assistance to Tamil Nadu under different schemes during last financial year:

1. Scholarship to Young Artists Rs.1,44,000/-
2. Senior/Junior Fellowship to outstanding artists in the field of Performing, Literary and Plastic Arts Rs.19,44,000/-
3. Research Support to Voluntary Organizations Rs.3,10,000/-

(c) Does not arise.

Remnants of an ancient civilization in Amreli

1424. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that remnants of an ancient civilization have emerged in Amreli district as the waters of Shetrunji river receded after the recent floods; and